TESTIMONIALS

IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION OF **WILLIAM HOUSTON, M. A.,**

FOR THE

POSITION OF TEACHER OF CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

IN THE UNIVERSITY OF **TORONTO.**

JAMES B. ANGELL, LL.D., President of the University of Michigan.

I have just received the volume from your publishers, and beg to express my sincere thanks for your courtesy and kindness. I had previously ordered a copy for the University library. I desire to express, first, my high appreciation of works of this class, which collect for historical students original documents in a convenient form. In some study of Canadian history I had found most of the historical works I consulted lacking in original documents, either in notes or appendix. And furthermore, I can most heartily commend the skill, and learning, and accuracy with which you have furnished the necessary annotations and explanations. Historical scholars in the United States and in Europe, as well as those in Canada, owe you their gratitude for the service you have rendered.

H. B. ADAMS, Ph.D., Professor of History in John Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

When your work first appeared I was particularly impressed with its historical value for students of American institutions and diplomacy. You have endeavored to do for Canada what Bishop Stubbs has done for the illustration of English Constitutional History. Your work is very convenient for reference to the fundamental law and diplomatic history of the Dominion.

MELVILLE DEWEY, M.A., Secretary of the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York.

We, of course, bought your "Canadian Constitutional Documents" promptly on its appearance. I have an opinion of it on a careful examination by our legislative librarian, who reported to me as follows:—"I examined it with some care, and am sure that it is a most careful piece of editing, admirable in every way, and the most useful contribution to Canadian constitutional history that has lately been made. As a work of reference there can be no question of its peculiar value, and as a seminary work in University treatment of history it stands alone in the Canadian field." My knowledge of your admirable work would have enabled me to predict with confidence just such a verdict, and I sincerely hope that we may all be substantial gainers from your continuing your labors in this line, for which you have shown so marked ability.

GEO. D. FERGUSON, Professor of History in Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.

Your book certainly supplies a want. What Stubb's "Select Charters" is for English history yours is for Canadian history. I intend using it in my class when reading Canadian history. I am firmly of opinion that for a thorough study of history we must go to the original authorities, and I am glad that your book enables me to direct my students to those of our own history. I am sure it will prove most advantageous.

A. H. MARSH, LL.B., Lecturer in the Law School, Osgoode Hall, Toronto.

I have much pleasure in saying that I have carefully looked through, and to a great extent read through, the "Canadian Constitutional Documents" edited by you, and I look upon the book as a very valuable addition to my library. It will be of great assistance to the practical lawyer, whose business it is to deal with questions of constitutional law (for constitutional law and constitutional history are inextricably interwoven), while to the student of Canadian constitutional law or constitutional history I should deem it to be invaluable. To attempt to teach constitutional history without having at hand the various statutes, treaties, charters, commissions, reports, and other documents forming the skeleton of that history would be like trying to teach law without having at hand the cases wherein that law is expounded. I hope that your work will have such success as will encourage you to again favor us with the fruits of your labors.

E. DOUGLAS ARMOUR, Lecturer in the Law School, Osgoode Hall, Toronto.

In my lectures on constitutional law in the Law School at Osgoode Hall I have made constant reference to your collection of Canadian Constitutional Documents, because it furnishes a handy book of all the statutes affecting our constitution in chronological order, and thus makes a history, without comment, of the growth of our constitution. For any one desiring to pursue the subject further the notes at the end of each division of the subjects are a guide to more extensive enquiry.

WILLIAM KINGSFORD, C.E., Author of the "History of Canada."

There can be no doubt of the value of your work, and to any historical student—indeed to any political writer, or to one engaged in politics—it is indispensable. If I could say anything stronger I would do so, but it appears to me that to advocate the advantages derived from a text book of these Acts and treaties is similar to recommending the purchase of a dictionary to those who are not assured in their spelling. To the class I have named you have performed an important service.

W. J. ROBERTSON, M.A., Teacher of History in the St. Catharines Collegiate Institute.

This is a work which should be in the hands of every student of Canadian history, and which should find a place in every reference library. Mr. Houston has edited with great care and thoroughness all the documents which have a direct and an indirect bearing on our constitutional development, and has put before students of history in a concise and moderately cheap form an amount of information which they could not obtain in any other way save by the expenditure of a great deal of time and research. In addition, Mr. Houston has accompanied the text with explanatory notes so judiciously prepared, that while assisting the student to get at the facts they do not interfere with his right of drawing his own conclusions. It may be added that in an introductory chapter Mr. Houston has given a valuable essay on the best method of teaching history. His views on this point will be of special interest to teachers, and will well repay careful study and examination. His opinions to many may appear heterodox, nevertheless it is well worth considering whether the prevalent mode of teaching and studying history is the best adapted to strengthen the critical and judicial faculties of the pupil. It has been a matter of reproach—perhaps deservedly—to Canadians that the study of Canadian history has been neglected in our schools and colleges. The publication of such a work as Mr. Houston's "Constitutional Documents" should lessen that reproach, and, at the same time, prove an additional incentive to the thorough and scientific study of our Canadian constitutional development.

J. G. BOURINOT, D.C.L., Clerk of the House of Commons of Canada.

I have had several opportunities, in the course of my historical and constitutional studies, to refer to your collection of "Constitutional Documents," especially in the preparation of the revised and enlarged edition of my work on "Parliamentary Procedure and Government in Canada." It is of much value to all constitutional students. The documents have been collected with every possible care, and the numerous notes which you have added give greater value to the work. It must have taken a vast amount of research, I know by experience, to make the book as useful as it is to Canadian students and all those interested in our past history.

HON. CHARLES CLARKE, Clerk and late Speaker of the Ontario Legislative Assembly.

Knowing the large amount of time taken and research given by you during several years, as opportunity offered, to your collection of "Constitutional Documents," I view with intense satisfaction not only the completion of your work but the high appreciation of it by many well fitted to judge of its merits. Its usefulness to the student, its value to the political writer and politician, and its importance to all who take even an average interest in the building up on this continent of an improved reproduction of British constitutional rights and usages, are beyond question. Upon the facts of Canadian constitutional progress it is more complete than any other authority.

THOMAS HODGINS, M.A., Q.C., Osgoode Hall.

I have delayed answering your note asking for my views on your work, "Constitutional Documents," until I made another examination of it. Having done so, it appears to me that all interested in the study of constitutional law will welcome your work as an attempt to supply a long felt want of material for the instruction of students of colonial constitutional law. The only branch of it not full is that relating to the right of the Imperial Parliament to pass laws and levy taxation in colonies possessing legislative institutions; and I may be allowed to say to you that after some study of the principles affecting that right I have been unable to concede the jurisdiction claimed for that Parliament in your "Introduction." But—we may differ in this—still your work gives us the foundations of our constitution, and you have made it an attractive compilation of the principal constitutional documents relating to Canada, by the fulness of your illustrative notes. And, unpretending as you claim it to be, it will be valuable to lecturers and writers on Canadian constitutional law and history, when the harvest of precedents and decisions now growing up in our system of colonial government is beginning to be reaped.

HON. J. R. GOWAN, Senator of Canada.

I have given your volume of "Documents illustrative of the Canadian Constitution" some attention, and feel free to express to you my very great satisfaction with the compilation. It has hitherto been very difficult for any but those who have access to some of the great libraries to obtain a view of any of these treaties, charters, Acts, and proclamations, which form the groundwork of our national history. Your labors have now placed them at the disposal of the public at large, and I trust that your venture may prove as remunerative as it is useful and timely.

HON. J. W. LONGLEY, Attorney-General of Nova Scotia.

"Canadian Constitutional Documents" is a book which cannot fail to prove of priceless value to all intelligent persons in Canada. It is full of information arranged and collected in such a form as to be available at the shortest notice. I have, more often than I could tell, had occasion to desire such a work. For general reference, and in its present form, it will be not only invaluable to the busy man but most convenient for educational purposes. Whatever others may think I have always regarded it as of prime importance that the elements of political science should be taught in our educational institutions—certainly some general idea of our own political constitution and history. Your work, so carefully and conscientiously edited, will afford a groundwork for such a department in the educational work of the country. In a word, it will be useful in a thousand ways, and I am under obligations to you for your successful task—as I am sure multitudes of others will be in this wide Dominion.

SIR JOHN S. D. THOMPSON, Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of the Dominion of Canada.

Mr. Houston's collection of "Constitutional Documents of Canada" is a highly useful work, as it brings together many of the documents relating to our constitution which would be otherwise difficult and inconvenient to gather in one's library, and which are required frequently for reference by any one having to do with constitutional questions.

W. R. MEREDITH, LL.B., Q.C., M.P.

I have read your "Documents Illustrative of the Canadian Constitution," and believe it to be a much needed and valuable addition to the constitutional history of the Dominion.

WESTMINSTER REVIEW.

Mr. Houston's attempt to bring together in a single collection the documents which contain the constitution of the Dominion of Canada and illustrate its historical development has resulted in the publication of a volume that will without doubt grow in favor as it becomes known to students of political and legal science. Its value to all who are interested in tracing the progressive course of Canadian history is simply inestimable. The explanatory notes which are freely furnished to elucidate what may appear involved or obscure in these documents have a special value in themselves, and supply a substantial outline of Canadian History. . . . A series of Governor Generals' Commissions and Royal Instructions, closing with those of Lord Stanley of Preston, complete the volume. There are, however, between sixty and seventy pages of "Appendixes," which are as useful as any in the main portion of the book. Mr. Houston's belief that the true line of development of the Canadian constitution takes us back, not to the French *régime* in Canada, but to the colonial governments of what is now the United States, accounts for the absence of all French documents except the articles of capitulation of Quebec and Montreal, as well as for the inclusion of the constitution of the United States of America in an appendix. We would suggest, however, that the task to which Mr. Houston has applied himself with so admirable a zeal and with so much industry will receive a fitting supplement by the publication, as he finds leisure and opportunity, of a selection of the chief documents dealing with the earliest period of Canadian history, a period certainly equalling in interest, if it does not in importance, that with which he has so well dealt in the present volume.

HARVARD LAW REVIEW.

This is a collection in one volume of the documents which contain the constitution of the Dominion of Canada, and illustrate its historical development. If to reprint a number of these old Acts and Conventions, and accompany them with historical information and references in the form of notes, appears either no very difficult thing to do, or a thing of uncertain value when done, it must be said that the result is a book which a person who studies or teaches Canadian constitutional history cannot afford to neglect. The needs of students of political and legal science in universities and law schools are held primarily in view in the scheme of this work; but it also presents facts which men who are not specialists, but who care for history, wish to have at command. Especially noteworthy groups of treaties are those relating to extradition and to the fisheries stipulations with France and the United States.

POLITICAL SCIENCE QUARTERLY (New York).

Mr. Houston opens with an introductory chapter on the method of studying history in general and Canadian constitutional history in particular. He advocates the study of the documents themselves, without the aid, or as he would call it, the interference of lectures. . . . The notes which have been placed at the end of some of the groups of documents show the source of the texts and explain obscurities, thus rendering much aid to the student of the subjects.

NEW YORK NATION.

While the value of this collection as a mere work of reference is obvious and incontestable, the author has also had in mind its use in the historical seminary, as he points out in a sensible introduction. He has omitted all French documents except the Capitulations of Quebec and Montreal, on the ground that the line of development of the Canadian Constitution leads back to the colonial governments of what is now the United States, by way of our constitution, which he reprints after very careful collation with original notes. In like manner, his chronological table is arranged with right and left hand entries so as to show side by side the events for Canada and the United States. . . . In short, Mr. Houston's scholarly labors are of international utility, and his volume should find a place in all our libraries and in every well-regulated newspaper office.

EDINBURGH SCOTSMAN.

Mr. William Houston's collection of "Documents" will be welcome to students of international law generally, and particularly so to any one who wishes to study the political development of the Dominion of Canada in its historical aspect. The book is all the more valuable because it is rather that of a librarian than of a professor. The author, that is to say, does not set forth any view of his own or statement of his own, but puts the documents in the hands of the reader that he may draw his own conclusions. Skill of the most useful kind is shown both in the selection of the admiricles of political right brought together in the book, in the careful, helpful, and condensed notes that accompany them, and in the volume's equipment of chronological tables, index, and appendixes. The statutes, treaties, and commissions teach better than a book of lectures could the history of the Canadian constitution.

TORONTO GLOBE.

Considered merely as a work of reference, Mr. Houston's book is exceedingly important and useful. But the author thinks, and we agree with him, that it will serve a still more important purpose, namely, as a basis for a thorough study of the political history of Canada. In the introduction, which is not the least valuable part of the work, he states his views on the teaching of this subject. The history of the constitution is to be traced largely by means of documents, and it is better for the student to read and try to understand these for himself than to derive his knowledge of them "from a text book writer's gloss, or a lecturer's interpretation." Mr. Houston's work is a very important step towards the making of an accurate and comprehensive history of Canada.

TORONTO EMPIRE.

It has sometimes been asserted in a general way that Canada has no history. A work, however, has just been published by William Houston, M.A., which not only displays considerable erudition and praiseworthy diligence, but opens up a rich mine of knowledge upon constitutions, institutions, and international law, in so far as Canada is concerned. . . . No statesman, man of letters, or patriotic Canadian but will be glad to welcome this volume as a contribution to the memory of those historic events and times which have exerted such an effect upon the moulding of this young nationality.

HAMILTON SPECTATOR.

Mr. Houston's training as a journalist eminently fits him to edit such a work. His practical eye guides him instinctively to the selection of that which is useful, and the rejection of that which is not, so that instead of filling massive volumes with materials for history, he has condensed his matter into little more than 300 pages, and so connected his various papers as to give the reader almost a constitutional history of Canada from the landing of Jacques Cartier in 1534 to Confederation in 1867.

LONDON ADVERTISER.

At this stage of the history of the country, and particularly of the Province of Ontario, which embraces the whole of what was known in those early days as Upper Canada, the student of a history so full of interest must gladly welcome this volume of "Constitutional Documents." The aids to the student are most valuable. Without them the documents would be dry; with them they are easy of interpretation, and, in view of recent discussions on the past and future of the county, intensely interesting. The scholastic student of history, as well as public men and writers, will find Mr. Houston's work a valuable compendium.

OTTAWA FREE PRESS.

Mr. Houston has succeeded in collecting and arranging in excellent order all the principal documents upon which the constitution of Canada is based, and his book will prove invaluable not only to students and writers of history, but to politicians and constitutional lawyers as well.

MONTREAL WITNESS.

This is an invaluable volume to the student of the constitution of Canada and its history. Mr. Houston has added to nearly all the constitutional documents a great number of notes giving explanations and lists of decisions affecting certain provisions and their interpretations. This book is one that should be in every library, and especially in every reference library. All writers who have occasion to turn to such documents as are collected in this volume know how difficult it is to lay one's hand upon the most ordinary one of them at the moment it is needed. To have such a collection at hand is, indeed, a boon to all political writers and students.

MONTREAL HERALD.

This work will be an interesting one to all students of Canadian history, and a valuable one to many of our law makers.

MONTREAL GAZETTE.

A work of undoubted value to the student of our history. Though Mr. Houston gratefully acknowledges help and advice received from several gentlemen both in Canada and the States, the plan of the work is essentially his own. He intends it primarily to meet the needs of students of political and legal science in universities and law schools, and in the introduction he gives some pertinent advice as to its use. He has considerably lightened the labor of the enquirer by appending to each chapter historical notes and references to related documents. Lastly, we have to thank Mr. Houston for an index which facilitates the task of consultation.

ST. JOHN TELEGRAPH.

The selections made appear to be quite judicious, and the accuracy of the text is vouched for. It has frequently been urged that greater attention should be given to the study of Canadian history in schools, and Mr. Houston is, from his cast of mind and the value of his researches, well fitted to speak upon that point. In the introduction to the work before us he forcibly points out that the study of Canadian history possesses certain inherent merits of distinctly high value to any student of Constitutional Government.

QUEBEC CHRONICLE.

A book of very great value to politicians and students of our political history. Mr. Houston's task has been to collect and prepare these papers for publication. He has edited the volume with conspicuous judgment, and his notes and appendixes give the collection of state papers especial value. These documents practically illustrate the historical development of the country, and they will be constantly consulted. The introduction i a thoughtful essay on the constitution of Canada, and though brief is clear and to the purpose. The editor is to be congratulated on the thorough way in which he has performed his task.. No reference library is complete without this book.

WINNIPEG FREE PRESS.

Mr. Wm. Houston, Librarian to the Ontario Legislature, is the author of a peculiar and interesting work entitled "Documents Illustrative of the Canadian Constitution." Running through it in an unobtrusive manner are a great many notes, and in these are evidences of laborious research and of comprehensive grasp of the subject whose development the documents are selected to illustrate. The purpose of the compilation is to encourage the study of Canadian constitutional history by Canadians. The volume will be accepted as a valuable contribution to the historical literature of our country, and there ought to be little doubt that it will stimulate a too slowly increasing interest in the study of events and influences that have shaped the constitutional structure under which we live.

WINNIPEG TRIBUNE.

It will prove an inestimable boon to the political speaker or writer. There can be no doubt that in gathering together so many important historical documents, and presenting them in such an interesting and "getatable" form, Mr. Houston has performed a service to the student of Canadian history which is simply incalculable. The greatest care has been taken in so arranging the documents that a perusal of them practically furnishes a history in itself The book cannot fail to become highly popular.